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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: LAYZELL et al.
Serial No.: n.a.
Date Filed: Herewith
Title: Methods for Enhancing Plant Growth Using
Hydrogen Gas
Group Art Unit: n.a.
Examiner: n.a.
Agent Reference No.: 1998-016-08US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
and
FEE AUTHORIZATION**

Applicants wish to amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 9 as shown below:

a1
9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the H₂ gas is generated by
microorganisms selected for their ability to evolve H₂.

Please enter new claims 24 and 25 as shown below:

a2
24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the H₂ gas is generated by soil
microorganisms.

*Sub
C3*
25. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising combining the soil exposed to
H₂ with soil not exposed to H₂, and growing the plant in the thus combined soil, wherein the H₂
is generated by H₂ evolving microorganisms.